In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1- 25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) Recognition unit comprising a processor for executing instructions for recognizing audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals ~~in at least one audiovisual programme received~~, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~, said recognition unit comprising:

a reception module and a recording module, for receiving and recording in a storage space, recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said recognition elements being constructed from pictures, sounds, parts of pictures or combinations of these audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

a reception module for receiving at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme,

a detection module for detecting said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme, by means of said recognition elements stored in said storage space, by recognition in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme received, of said extracted audiovisual portion,

and a transmission module for transmitting action instructions in case of detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme, said instructions being designed so as to trigger at least one action.

27. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein said reception and recording modules for receiving and recording said recognition elements are designed so as respectively to receive and record also at least one timeout lag and in that the timeout module is designed to use said lag.

28. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein the modules for receiving and recording recognition elements and the module for transmitting action instructions are designed so as respectively to receive, record and transmit identifiers relating to said actions to be triggered.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein said recognition elements include at least one Boolean operator, said detection module being designed to detect at least two of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content in conjunction with said boolean operator and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection.

31. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein said recognition elements include at least one time information item, said detection module being designed to detect said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content in conjunction with said time information item and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection.

32. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 31, wherein said time information item comprises at least one information item chosen from among a date of detection and a detection time slot.

33. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein said recognition elements include at least one channel reference, said detection module detecting said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content in conjunction with said channel reference and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in the case of said detecting.

34. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein the reception module for receiving the recognition elements is designed to directly receive said extracted audiovisual portion from among said recognition elements and the recording module is designed to record said extracted audiovisual portion in the storage space.

35. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein the reception module for receiving the recognition elements is designed to receive from among said recognition elements, instructions for extracting said extracted audiovisual portion in at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the stream reception module, and said recording module is designed to extract directly said audiovisual portion of said stream according to said extraction instructions and to record said audiovisual portion in the storage space.

36. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein the reception module for receiving the recognition elements is designed to receive from among said recognition elements, at least one identifier of said extracted audiovisual portion, and in that said detection module is capable of retrieving from the storage space said extracted audiovisual portion previously recorded and associated with said identifier, so as to recognize in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme received said extracted audiovisual portion.

37. (Currently amended) Specification unit comprising a processor for executing instructions for specifying audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one

audiovisual programme serving as synchronization signals associated with said at least one audiovisual programme, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~, and said synchronization signals being intended to be detected in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme and thus to trigger at least one action,

wherein said specification unit comprises

a preparation module for preparing recognition elements making it possible to obtain said at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said recognition elements being constructed from pictures, sounds, parts of pictures or combinations of these portions of audiovisual content,

and a transmission module for transmitting said recognition elements independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, to at least one recognition unit intended to detect said synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme, by recognizing said extracted audiovisual portion in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme,

and the preparation and transmission modules of said unit are designed respectively to prepare and transmit at least one action timeout lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

said specification unit being capable of cooperating with said recognition unit.

38. (Previously presented) Specification unit according to Claim 37, wherein the preparation and transmission modules of said unit are designed respectively to prepare and transmit identifiers relating to said actions to be triggered in case of detection of said synchronization signals.

39. (Previously presented) Specification unit according to Claim 38, wherein said action identifiers relate to at least one of the following actions: broadcasting of an interactive service, triggering of an interactive service, triggering of an update of an interactive service, triggering of a recording of said audiovisual programme and connection to a website.

40. (Currently amended) Activation assembly comprising a processor for executing instructions for activation by recognition of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals ~~in at least one audiovisual programme received~~, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~, the activation assembly comprising:

a recognition unit for recognizing said synchronization signals in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognition of at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, by means of recognition elements making it possible to obtain said audiovisual portion and recorded in a storage space, said recognition elements being constructed from pictures, sounds, parts of pictures or combinations of these audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

and an activation unit designed to trigger at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals by the recognition unit, said detection being done

without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme, wherein at least one of said recognition and activation units is designed to delay the triggering of said action by at least a determined timeout lag, in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

said recognition unit being in accordance with Claim 26.

41. (Previously presented) Activation assembly according to Claim 40, wherein said activation assembly is designed to receive said timeout lag with said recognition elements.

42. (Currently amended) Synchronization system comprising a processor for executing instructions comprising:

a specification unit for specifying audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals ~~associated with at least one audiovisual programme~~, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~,

a recognition unit for recognizing said synchronization signals in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognition of at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, in the audiovisual programme received,

and an activation unit designed to trigger at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals by the recognition unit, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme, said

detection being done through recognition in said at least one audiovisual programme received of said at least one extracted audiovisual portion of audiovisual content, the recognition unit and the activation unit forming an activation assembly,

wherein the specification unit is designed to prepare and transmit to the recognition unit recognition elements making it possible to obtain said extracted audiovisual portion, as well as at least one action timeout lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals, and in that the activation assembly is capable of delaying the triggering of said action according to said lag transmitted, in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

the specification unit being in accordance with Claim 37.

43. (Previously presented) Broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a device chosen from among at least a specification unit in accordance with Claim 37, a recognition unit, an activation assembly, and a synchronization system.

44. (Previously presented) Services operator, wherein it comprises a device chosen from among at least a specification unit in accordance with Claim 37, a recognition unit, an activation assembly, and a synchronization system.

45. (Previously presented) Terminal for receiving audiovisual programmes, wherein it comprises a device chosen from among at least a specification unit in accordance with Claim 37, a recognition unit, an activation assembly, and a synchronization system.

46. (Currently amended) Method, implemented by a processor including executable instructions, of activation by recognition of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals ~~in at least one audiovisual programme received~~, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following

audiovisual portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~, said method comprising the following steps:

reception of at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme,

detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received by means of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme and stored in a storage space, by recognition of said extracted audiovisual portion, in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said recognition elements being constructed from pictures, sounds, parts of pictures or combinations of these portions of audiovisual content, and said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme,

and triggering of at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme,

wherein the triggering of said action is delayed by at least one determined lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals,
said method of activation being implemented by means of an activation assembly.

47. (Currently amended) Method, implemented by a processor including executable instructions, of specifying audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals associated with said at least one audiovisual programme, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or

video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~, said synchronization signals being intended to be detected in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme and thus to trigger at least one action,

wherein said method of specification comprises the following steps:

preparation of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said recognition elements being constructed from pictures, sounds, parts of pictures or combinations of these audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

transmission of said recognition elements independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, for detection of said synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognition of said extracted audiovisual portion in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme,

and transmission of at least one action timeout lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme,

said specification method being implemented by means of a specification unit.

48. (Currently amended) Synchronization method, implemented by a processor including executable instructions, comprising the following steps:

a step of specifying audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals associated with said at least one audiovisual programme, each of said

audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~, in which recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme are specified for said detection, said recognition elements being constructed from pictures, sounds, parts of pictures or combinations of these audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

a step of detecting said synchronization signals in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, in which said synchronization signals are detected in said audiovisual programme received, by recognition of said extracted audiovisual portion in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme,

and a step of triggering at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

wherein the triggering of said action is delayed by at least one determined lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

said synchronization method being implemented by a synchronization system.

49. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 46, wherein said audiovisual programmes comprise at least one recognition part containing at least one of said recognition audiovisual portions, and at least one live transmission intended to be broadcast following said recognition part, in such a way that said synchronization signals are detected during the broadcast of said recognition part and that said action is

triggered during the broadcast of said following live transmission, by means of said timeout lag.

50. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 47, wherein said audiovisual programmes comprise at least one recognition part containing at least one of said recognition audiovisual portions, and at least one live transmission intended to be broadcast following said recognition part, in such a way that said synchronization signals are detected during the broadcast of said recognition part and that said action is triggered during the broadcast of said following live transmission, by means of said timeout lag.

51. (Currently amended) Method according to Claim 48, wherein said audiovisual programmes comprise at least one recognition part containing at least one of said recognition audiovisual portions, and at least one live transmission intended to be broadcast following said recognition part, in such a way that said synchronization signals are detected during the broadcast of said recognition part and that said action is triggered during the broadcast of said following live transmission, by means of said timeout lag.

52. (Currently amended) A computer readable non-transitory storage medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one transmitted stream carrying an audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~,

detection of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content serving as synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least

two of said audiovisual portions, and where said detection is done by means of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme and stored in a storage space, by recognition of said extracted audiovisual portion, in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said recognition elements being constructed from pictures, sounds, parts of pictures or combinations of these audiovisual portions of audiovisual content, and said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme,

and triggering of at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme, wherein the triggering of said action is delayed by at least one determined lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals.

53. (Currently amended) A computer readable non-transitory storage medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

preparing recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of audiovisual content of an audiovisual programme, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~, said recognition elements being constructed from pictures, sounds, parts of pictures or combinations of these audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

transmitting said recognition elements independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, for detection of audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual portions serving as synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognition of said extracted audiovisual portion in the audiovisual

content of said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme,

and

transmitting at least one action timeout lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme.

54. (Currently amended) A computer readable non-transitory storage medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

specifying audiovisual portions of audiovisual content of at least one audiovisual programme received, said portions serving as synchronization signals associated with said at least one audiovisual programme, each of said audiovisual portions of audiovisual content consisting of at least one of the following audiovisual portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least two of said audiovisual portions, and said audiovisual programme, being audio and/or video, comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users ~~and control information~~, in which recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted audiovisual portion of the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme are specified for detection, said recognition elements being constructed from pictures, sounds, parts of pictures or combinations of these audiovisual portions of audiovisual content,

detecting said synchronization signals in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, in which synchronization signals are detected in said audiovisual programme received, by recognition of said extracted audiovisual portion in the audiovisual content of said audiovisual programme, said detection being done without any modification being made to said at least one audiovisual programme,

triggering at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals, wherein the triggering of said action is delayed by at least one determined lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals.